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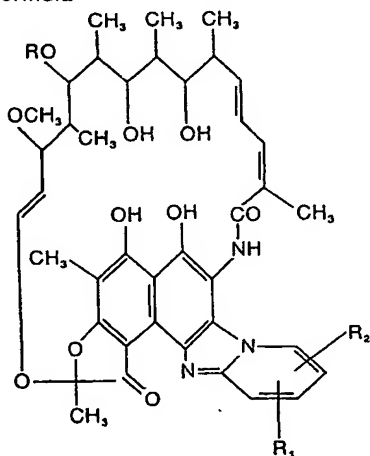
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54 New process for the synthesis of pyrido-imidazo-refamycins.

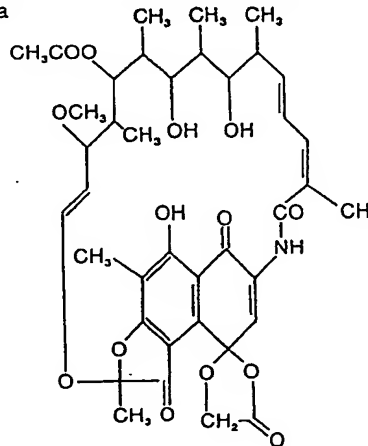
57 A new process for the synthesis of pyrido-imidazo-
rifamycins of formula



wherein R is hydrogen or acetyl, R₁ and R₂ independently represent hydrogen, (C₁₋₄)-alkyl, benzyloxy, mono- or di-(C₁₋₃)-alkylamino-(C₁₋₄)-alkyl, (C₁₋₃)-alkoxy-(C₁₋₄)-alkyl, hydroxymethyl, hydroxy-(C₂₋₄)-alkyl, cyano, halogen, nitro,

mercapto, (C₁₋₄)-alkylthio, phenylthio, carbamoyl, mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)-alkyl-carbamoyl, or R₁ and R₂ taken together with two consecutive carbon atoms of the pyridine nucleus form a benzene ring optionally substituted by one or two methyl or ethyl groups.

The process comprises reacting the rifamycin O of formula



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